

# National Park Service Department of the Interior

Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area  
Obed Wild & Scenic River



## Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area

**Coffee with a Ranger Program on Saturday, May 4.** Bandy Creek Visitor Center is hosting an informal coffee with a ranger program on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 to 10:30 AM. Bring any questions you have and come join National Park Service rangers for a free cup of coffee or tea. The event is an excellent opportunity to learn about the various jobs rangers do in a national park. People interested in volunteering can also pick up applications.

**Birding Walk at Bandy Creek on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM.** Join Dr. Charles P. Nicholson for an interesting and informative outing. Dr. Nicholson is the author of the definitive book about Tennessee's birds, *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee*, and numerous articles about birds and birding in scientific and other publications. Participants should meet at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center and are encouraged to wear sturdy footwear and to bring binoculars and drinking water. The program will conclude by noon.

**National Parks Foundation provides Oneida students with an overnight field trip to the park.** Thanks to a generous grant from the National Parks Foundation, 40 students in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades will have the opportunity to spend a night at Big South Fork and learn about the park's natural and cultural resources.

**Check out the Bandy Creek Bookstore** with new merchandise in just in time for Mother's Day.



White water pioneers, Roy & Juanita Guinn with their daughter Margaret.

## Obed Wild and Scenic River

**Annual River Clean-Up & Volunteer Appreciation Lunch on May 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30 AM** to celebrate National River Cleanup Day. The park will provide trash bags, gloves, and trash grabbers. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water, sun block and insect repellent. Volunteer appreciation lunch begins at 12:30 PM. Please bring a side dish to share. The park will provide burgers and beverages.

**Rock Climbing and Paddling Program for 6th Grade Homeschooled Students on May 14<sup>th</sup>.** Obed invites 6th grade students who are homeschooled or attend private schools to a day of adventure with park rangers. Students will spend half of the day learning to use pulleys and have the opportunity to rock climb. The other half of the day will be spent near Clear Creek, studying aquatic organisms and learning how to canoe and kayak. All safety equipment will be provided. Participation is limited and the program will be filled on a first come/first served basis. To sign up, please call the park office at 423-346-6294 or email Ranger Zagorski at [joseph\\_zagorski@nps.gov](mailto:joseph_zagorski@nps.gov).

**Join us for *Memories of the Obed* on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM.** This month's program features whitewater pioneers Roy and Juanita Guinn, pioneer whitewater paddlers on the Obed and the Big South Fork and the founders of Blue Hole Canoe Company in Sunbright and Dagger Canoe Company in Harriman. The Guinns will share the stories behind the naming of rapids such as Rion's Eddy and Wooten's Folly as well as their chapter in the initial effort to preserve the Obed as a unit of the National Park Service.

**Lots more happening! The events posted here are just a few of the many new and exciting programs happening at both parks. Call the Visitor Centers for information about these and other happenings.**

**For more information, contact the Bandy Creek Visitor Center at (423) 286-7275 or visit us at:**

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**For more information, contact the Obed Visitor Center at (423) 346-6294 or visit us at:**

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